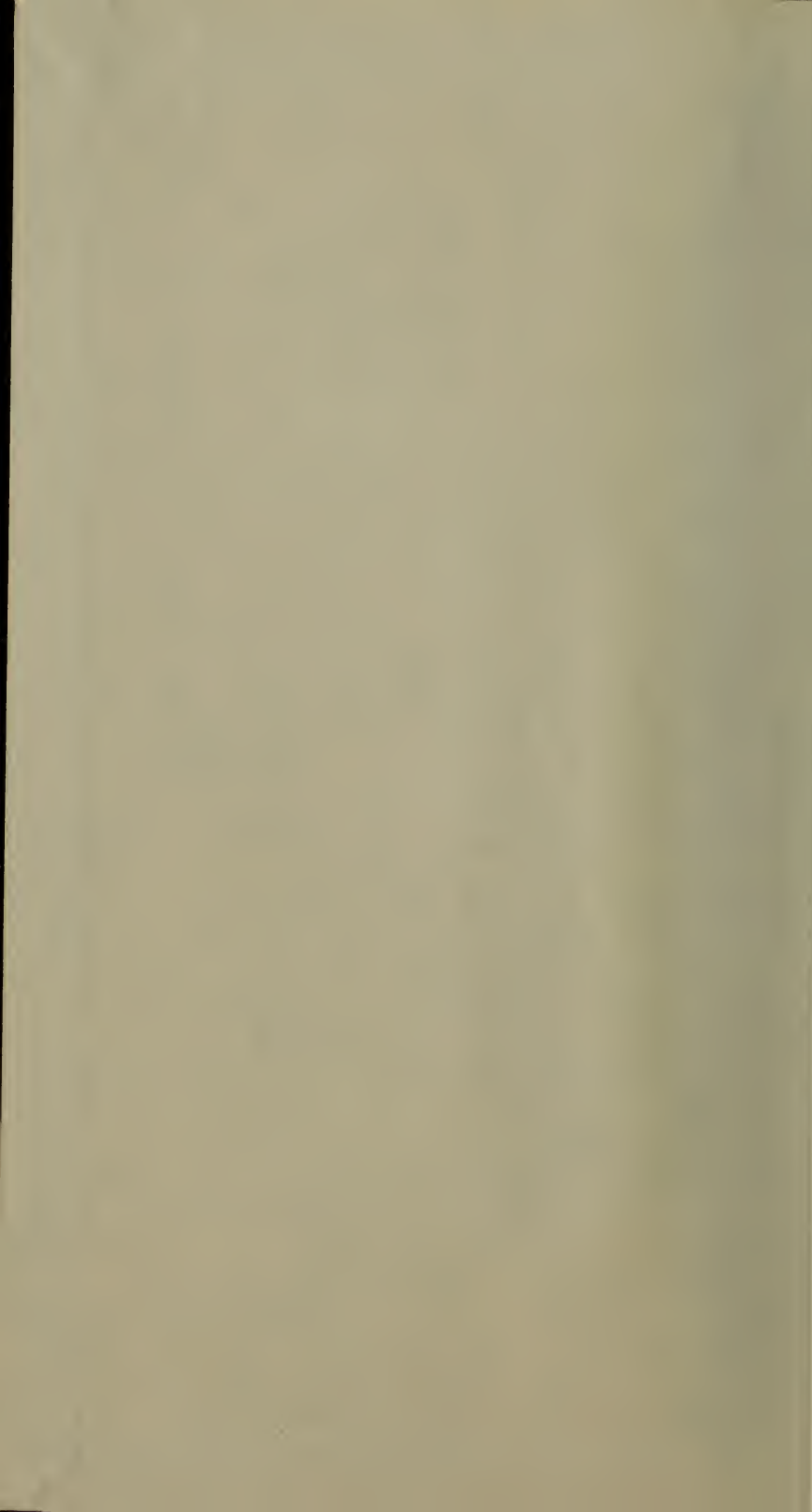


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AN
ACCOUNT OF ODESSA.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.
WITH SOME REFLECTIONS,
SHOWING THE
BENEFITS OF THE TRADE
OF THE
BLACK SEA
TO THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
AND THE
ADVANTAGES
OF A
COMMERCIAL TREATY
WITH
TURKEY.

BY AN AMERICAN:

WHO HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY OF BEING CONVERSANT WITH
THE FACTS HEREIN RELATED, AND EMBRACES
THIS MODE TO MAKE THEM KNOWN
TO HIS FELLOW-CITIZENS.

NEWPORT:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM SIMONS.

1819.

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AN ACCOUNT OF ODESSA.

MORE than three hundred years have rolled away, since the Turks became masters of the Black Sea, and until within a short period have remained its exclusive possessors.

Commerce, which in remote times, spread its benefits among those countries, was, at that epoch, driven from thence ; continual wars, the most despotic of governments, and the licensed pillage of its officers, diminished population and destroyed agriculture ; nothing now was seen on the northern shores of the Black Sea, but wandering banditti.

Peter the first, determining to civilize his empire, called commerce to his assistance ; having succeeded in his establishments on the Baltic, he wished to make similar ones on the Euxine, but adverse occurrences prevented ; scarcely was he enabled to preserve Taganrok, in the sea of Asof.

It was reserved for Catharine the second to realize these projects by conquest, and for Alexander, by his wisdom, his moderation, and his justice in governing, to place these provinces in their present flourishing and happy condition. Previous to the conquest of those countries, which now comprise what is commonly called New Russia, solitude and sterility reigned over these immense plains, now populous and fertile : these extensive tracts, now abounding with productions of the first necessity, were then occupied by hordes of wandering Tartars, who were obliged to roam from place to place, in order to find occasional pillage and pasture, wherewith to support themselves, their horses and their oxen.

The treaty of Kainardjy, 21st July, 1774, began the happy change. By a condition of this treaty, and the explicative convention in 1779, Russian ships were permitted freely to navigate the Black Sea ; to enter and return through the passage of the Dardanelles. Russia having no port to profit by this advantage, chose one on the Dnieper, where she might establish commerce and a military marine, which she intended from henceforth to have in the Euxine sea. In consequence of this arrangement, the town of Kherson [Cherson] was commenced in 1778, on the right bank of that river, at

seventeen leagues from its mouth. The Empress granted many privileges to this establishment, which drew thither a concourse of strangers and a considerable commerce. Its commercial relations beginning with Constantinople and the Archipelago, extended to Marseilles, Leghorn, Trieste and other places. The articles of importation and exportation were the same as are now comprised in the commerce of Odessa. The productions of the interior, for the most part, descended the Dnieper in boats of the country ; and foreign vessels of easy draft, ascended this river as far as Kherson, those drawing more than six feet, were obliged to stop and discharge part of their cargoes at Gloubow, a village six leagues below. From the month of October until March, this river is much obstructed by the ice, the breaking up of which is frequently dangerous, so that commerce could only be safely carried on in seven months in the year. To these evils were added others, particularly the insalubrity of the air at Kherson. Owing to these circumstances, it was proposed to make another choice, which at that period was impossible, on account of the political state of the country.

However the commerce of Cherson daily increased. The commercial treaty concluded between Russia and Turkey on the 10th June, 1783, consolidated its success and prepared additional advantages ; for now was it known that Austria had obtained like favors from the Porte, as by the treaty of 24th February, 1784, Austrian ships were assimilated with those of Russia, in the free navigation of the Black Sea.

Commerce now took rapid strides ; already more than 200 vessels were employed, Austrian and Russian, in the trade of Galatz by the Danube, of Kherson by the Dnieper, and even of Caffa, now become the possession of Russia, by the cession of the whole of the Crimea, which Kham Chahim Gueray made in 1783 to the Empress, with the approbation of the Porte. But the war of 1787, between this latter power and the two imperial courts, paralyzed this growing commerce. Peace concluded between the Porte and Austria, 27th July, 1790, restored something of its incipient vigor ; but it was not until after the conclusion of the war with Russia, in 1792, that this restoration could be considered as permanent, and tending to that degree of prosperity it has at present attained. By this treaty of Peace, Russia extended her frontiers from the Bog to the Niester ; the year following

she acquired by the last partition of Poland, those provinces which are nearest the Black Sea.

In this new state of affairs, the inconveniences of Kherson presented themselves with peculiar force, and the acquisition of so many fertile provinces in Poland, required a *debouché* for their productions more immediate than that of Kherson.

The bay of a Tartarian village called Kodjabey, was deemed eligible for this purpose. This bay is situate in lat. 46, 35, north, long. 29, 2, east, from Paris, between the Dnieper and the Niester. All its possessions at this time consisted of a small Tartar fort, and a few miserable huts; but the bay had, from time immemorial, proved a secure haven to winter in, for vessels navigating these waters.

This new establishment, occupying the continual solicitude of the Empress, she gave it, in 1796, the name of ODESSA, conferring on it privileges which attracted population and a flourishing trade.

From the death of the Empress, in 1796, until the accession of Alexander, neither circumstances, nor perhaps the views, nor the means of government were favorable to the progress of Odessa; on the contrary it was making retrograde steps.

The treaty of Luneville, giving peace to the Continent, Alexander the first ascended the throne of the Russias—, shortly after the existing differences between that empire and England terminated, and her commercial relations with France were reestablished by the treaty of 8th Oct. 1801. The treaty of Amiens, concluded the beginning of the subsequent year, was followed by that of France with the Porte, by which French vessels were assimilated with those of the most favored nations in Turkey, and obtained in consequence, the liberty of a free navigation in the Black Sea.

Shortly afterwards, the English, the Russians, Neapolitans, Ragusans, Dutch and the Republic of the Seven Islands, obtained the same privilege. This memorable epoch freed the Euxine, in a great degree from the dominion of the Turks; it became the common domain of the Nations of Europe, and Odessa the centre of vast speculations.

The Russian Government, occupying itself, with success and with a paternal solicitude, watched over this rising country, and encouraged its commercial prosperity, by granting particularly to Odessa, many important privileges, and in

1803, his Excellency the Duke de Richelieu was appointed Governor General with extensive powers.

This year 900 vessels entered the Black Sea, 536 of which came to Odessa; these vessels were chiefly in ballast, many however brought various goods of Spain, France, Italy and of the Levant. Their return cargoes consisted entirely of wheat, which was at that time, the only article demanded and the only one which could then be furnished, the city not having established her present commercial relations with the interior of the Empire. This wheat was supplied by the Governments of Podolia, Vohlinia, Kiow, and by that of Khersen, the three first transporting it by land, the latter by boats, which descending the Dnieper, delivered their cargoes in the roads of Odessa.

A like mass of affairs must suppose a population considerable; in 1803 it exceeded 8,000 souls, but the city was not more than modelled; there were only a few houses, badly built and incommodious, hardly a good warehouse, for the storage of merchandize, no public establishments, very imperfect quarantine regulations, and only a single mole or wharf, which feebly sheltered ships from the S.E. winds frequently dangerous.

Government enlightened in its views, powerfully aided Odessa.—Having already granted a revenue in allowing it, the profits of forming the manufacture of brandy, for its own consumption, as well as granting it the tenth of its Custom-House Revenues—New funds were assigned, in order to meet contingent expences, and furthermore a certain sum placed in the hands of a Committee of Administration, to loan it, at an interest of six per cent. per annum, to those of its inhabitants who would employ it in building. In consequence of this facility and a growing commerce, the city became instantly improved; commodious dwellings and warehouses were erected, a lazaretto and new mole were added, foundations of a Russian Cathedral and of a Catholic church were begun, a Theatre, and in general all those establishments and edifices, which now completed, rank Odessa with other European cities. The environs attracted at the same time, the attention of Administration; in establishing many colonies of Bulgarians, Hungarians, Slavonians and Germans, who abandoning their own countries, sought one in New Russia. Those who were agriculturists were distrib-

uted in the country, forming each their respective villages. The artisans were established in the city. In order to ameliorate the condition of these new comers, who were for the most part destitute of means, advances in cattle and implements of husbandry, were made to the one class ; and houses and work shops were provided for the other. The value of these advances were to revert to government in twenty years, to commence from the *tenth* year of the arrival of each inhabitant.

War, suddenly breaking out in 1803, between France and England, surprized administration, in the midst of its important labors ; its zeal was however not discouraged and its intelligence suggested with reason, that the navigation of neutrals, the interest and the necessities of Europe, would give great activity to the commerce of Odessa. In 1804, this predication was realized ; the wars in Italy, the troubles in Egypt and along the coast of Barbary, the prohibitions against the exportation of wheat from Hungary, had drained, and shut up the granaries of Europe, and it was only through this mart that her wants could be supplied ; and this year 449 vessels loaded there, with that article, which was paid for, half in merchandise and half in ready money. Expeditions in wheat made in 1804 to Spain and other countries, having paid a medium profit of eighty per centum, larger operations were entered into in 1805, during which year there arrived 643 vessels.—In 1806, political circumstances becoming unfavourable to the navigation of neutrals, the commercial relations of this port, with the rest of Europe experienced a depression ; in effect this year, only 279 vessels entered—but the commerce of the Levant, exempt from these obstacles, and by this new vent regaining what it lost by the political difficulties of the Ottoman Empire, gave new extension to its relations with Odessa ; which having become the centre of a numerous population, offered a considerable opening for the sale of different merchandise, and for those of the Levant in particular.

Towards the close of this year, commerce felt the rupture between Turkey and Russia, which broke out soon after into an open war, and suspended all foreign relations ; the occupation of Moldavia and Wallachia by Russian troops, opened a new field of speculation, whilst in another manner, the commerce of Odessa, recovered from its momentary in-

action, by the high prices obtained for its importations, warehoused before and during the war, and from the low rates, at which the productions of the country were procurable.

The treaty of Tilsit causing an armistice between Russia and Turkey, by which means in September 1807, many expeditions were entered into, and shipments of wheat &c. made to Constantinople, returns of which were received in various articles of importation.

The season particularly favored this new branch of commerce, during the three last months of this year, navigation was as secure in this sea, as in the summer; the amount of exports and imports might be estimated at three millions of rubles. War and the consequent suspension of all commercial relations between the two countries, caused a mutual reciprocity of wants; Turkey particularly, deprived of the tallow, butter, wheat, &c. which had been formerly furnished her by Moldavia and Wallachia, was in extreme need of these commodities; the wheats of the Morea could not arrive at Constantinople, on account of the blockade of the Dardanelles—the commerce of Egypt was cut off.—Anarchy reigned over Anatolia! These powerful causes added to many others, reduced Constantinople, Smyrna and other places of the Levant, to the necessity of depending, as their last resource, upon the Russian coasts of the Black Sea, for their supplies. Thus was the year 1808 rendered brilliant for commerce to Odessa; this city alone received and despatched 399 ships, which furnished her with articles of the Levant, amounting to six millions of rubles for consumption and about ten millions entered for transit. It is computed that her exportations this year, were nearly six millions, in Russian productions, such as wheat, butter, tallow candles, *caviar* (spawn or roes of sturgeon made into cakes of an inch thick and about a hand's breadth, salted and dried in the Sun, a great article of food) and various other articles hitherto unknown as exports.

The very circumstances, that paralysed commerce elsewhere, this year, acted upon Odessa in an inverse ratio, by opening a new branch of trade, the transit of Cottons and other merchandize from Europe, by the Levant, through it to Brody, Vienna, &c. &c. and *vice versa*. At this epoch could one of the primitive inhabitants of this country, one of those wandering Tartars, who twenty years before roamed through the deserts of Bessarabia; could he have been sud-

denly transported, into the midst of this city, witnessing the public and private prosperity, the elegance and grandeur of surrounding objects, he could not be made to believe he was not viewing, works of enchantment. The population at this time, 1812, of Odessa is 25,000 souls, the births are after a ratio of one for every thirty, each year; the environs for twenty leagues contain an additional population of 30,000, comprising thirty-five or forty villages; these furnish the city with all its vegetables, fruits, &c. and also many articles of Commerce, such as butter, tallow; wool and upwards of 100,000 tchetverts of hard wheat, also beans, peas, potatoes, &c. &c. The present population (1818) is 40,000 and the environs are supposed to comprize an addition of 60,000 to that number; 1000 large ships annually load at the single port of Odessa and with wheat alone—these ships are principally Greek, although many Imperial, Prussian, English and French ships *now* obtain freights for the Mediterranean and peninsular ports.

The air of Odessa is sharp and wholesome; the streets are wide and laid out at right angles; all the houses are built of stone, from two to three stories high, and after the European style.

The cultivation of the mulberry tree has attained to a perfection which has already been productive to the proprietors. The attention paid to the wool trade has been so great, that one of the two establishments, twenty versts from the City, has engaged to furnish, in the course of two years 3000 Merino rams, which the government are to distribute to divers proprietors, granting them facilities for the payment. In the city the public works, the Lazaretto, the Mole, &c. are finished, and for the last three years the Public Seminary has been in operation, which besides its public course of lessons to day scholars, contains a particular branch for the instruction of seventy-five Pensionnaires, (boarding scholars.) The study of the national and foreign languages, the arts and sciences, history and belles-lettres, comprise the plan of education.

For two years past there had been a provinsional theatre, where performances were executed in the Russian, Polish and German languages: a regular theatre is now finished upon a very fine plan. Humanity requiring an Hospital, one was built a year since. And while useful attainments have been

attended to, those of ornament and art have not been neglected. Trees have been planted in the streets and squares, side-walks for foot passengers have been constructed, and ground has been purchased by Government, for a public Botanical Garden and promenade.

COMMERCE OF ODESSA.

In ordinary times, Odessa imports from Spain her fine wines, such as Malaga, Alicante, Sherry, and some hundred pipes of common red wines. The wines of Porto and of Madeira, particularly are in great estimation and meet with ready sales, and in considerable quantities.

France furnishes her through Marseilles with wines of various qualities in casks and bottles, with red wines under the name of Bordeaux, in oxofs of two hundred and forty bottles, as also those of Lunel and Frontignac and other sweet wines, although these latter are not demanded in such quantities as the dry wines.

These wines find very considerable vent, and at advantageous prices; they are consumed all over New Russia and Russian Poland; and many parcels find their way, even to Moscow, where they come into competition with those despatched from Riga and St. Petersburg. It is easily foreseen that the Black Sea, will ere long deprive the Baltic of this branch of its trade. Salt provisions, liqueurs, fine oils, vinegar, mustard, chocolate, porcelain, fine linens, snuff, cabinet wares, glass, silk stuffs, and generally those manufactured goods of fashionable use in France, find ready sales. Brandies are inadmissible. Colonial articles wanted are sugar, pepper, rum, indigo, coffee, &c. &c. &c. Italy, furnishes Sicilian wines, liqueurs, syrups, Lucca oil, lemon juice, oranges, lemons, Parmesan cheese; silk and velvet stuffs from Florence and Genoa.

LEVANT.

The importation of articles from the Levant is much greater and more various, than from all the other countries together. Odessa receives from thence large quantities of red and white wines, ordinary and fine, all in pipes or barrels; those most esteemed and of the greatest consumption are loaded in the sea of Marmora, such as the wines called Alonski and those of Rodosto. Those which come from the Archipelago, such as of Tenedos, Santorini of Sera, the Muscat wine of Samos, those of Smyrna, of Cyprus. The Mal-

rosia or Limos and the wines of the other islands in the Archipelago are less in demand. The Levant furnishes also, in great quantities, fine and common oils, lemon juice, bek-mis (a sort of grape) dry fruits, such as figs, raisins, almonds, dates, also green and black olives, oranges and lemons, raw and spun silks, Smyrna cottons, white and red, in the raw and manufactured state, sponges, Mocha coffee, tobacco, snuff, myrrh, frankincense, aloes, gums, nutgalls, drugs and medicines, saffron, Cashmere and Bagdad shawls, Turkish manufactures, pearls, amber, and an infinity of other articles.

ANATOLIA.

The northern parts of Anatolia, have commercial relations also with Odessa, by Sinope, Karasoundar and Trebisonde, furnishing dry fruits, figs and raisins, nuts of various kinds, Nardeck, the juice of the pomegranate, of which brandy is made, dye-woods, and a *red* wood similar to mahogany, of which furniture is made; also boxwood. In 1808, cottons were sent from thence to Odessa.

These articles comprise the cargoes of five or six vessels, which annually carry on this trade. In consulting the geographical situation of this part of Anatolia and the products of its interior provinces, it is perceivable that in case its political situation should become more favorable to trade, the commercial relations between these countries would assume more extended and important views: And the port of Sinope might become more advantageous than Smyrna itself, which now carries on this commerce with the interior, by means of a long and expensive land carriage.

MOLDAVIA, WALLACHIA AND ROMELIA:

Moldavia and Wallachia, furnish in large quantities white and red wines, which arrive by land—Romelia supplies also yearly five or six small vessels, which load at Zoopoli, in the gulf of Pharos in the black sea. When these provinces are tranquil, Odessa receives the oils of the Levant, which come by sea to Enos, in the gulf of Saros, ascend the Maritza in batteaux, as far as Adrianople, and from thence are transported by land, across Bulgaria, Wallachia and Bessarabia; considerable quantities of cotton come also from Salonica, arrive at Doubassar upon the Dniester, at one hundred and fifty versts distant, from whence they pass into the interior.

HUNGARY.

Hungary furnishes annually fine and common wines,

though in small quantities, they come by land, or by the Danube from Galatz.

GERMANY.

Odessa is furnished by Germany with cloths and other manufactured stuffs, various articles of fashion, Hardware, jewellery and other commodities, which are purchased at the fairs of Leipsic, and transported by land, passing through Brody and sometimes Jassy, when Moldavia is occupied by the Russian armies.

DANUBE.

When political events shall one day, submit the whole course of this superb river to European powers, Odessa will reap immense advantages; the productions of all Germany, of Italy and of France, will from Ulm, directly appear in her waters. The wines of Tokay and its environs descending the Teiss, as far as the Danube, and from thence, reaching the Euxine, will be distributed throughout all Poland, New Russia and to those countries, which now receive them under the charges of a long transportation by land. It will be perceived that if the continental commerce of Europe with Asia, should acquire all that unfolding of which it is susceptible, the Danube is the connecting communication which nature has given, and Odessa will then become the grand *entrepot* of her various and bountiful productions. Commerce having civilized the world, peopled deserts, and made even the immensity of Oceans subservient to her calculations, will at no distant period cause this river to flow in obedience to her purposes, which for the space of one hundred and eighty leagues, is now submissive to the Turk, whose barbarous policy, seems to offer him as an easy conquest.

Upon reception of merchandizes imported, those of the Levant perform a quarantine longer or shorter, according to the nature of the commodities and other circumstances; after which they are put into warehouses of the consignee. The retail dealers purchase for the town consumption and for that of its environs; the merchants of the interior make purchases of greater or lesser quantities conformably to the demand, which they send by land to Moscow, the general centre of commerce of the Empire, or to other cities in the interior, where they are disposed of at the numerous fairs, and particularly that of Makariew, the most famous, in the

district of the Government of Nidge Gorod, where there is an annual business of from fifteen to twenty millions of rubles.

EXPORTS.

In the present situation in which Odessa finds herself, she can export generally all the productions of Russia, which are now shipt from the ports of the Baltic, and with more advantage to the East and South of Europe. The articles of export in great quantities are, wheats, hard and soft, beans, peas, butter of Siberia, caviar, yellow and white tallow, candles, lines and twines, cordage, tarred and untarred, of all dimensions, iron in bars, red leather, gold thread from the fabrics of Moscow, peltry, sailcloth of every description, bagging, nails, hardware of Toulá, window glass and other glass wares.

The articles of export in lesser quantities are, starch, pitch, tar, hemp, flax, white and yellow wax, waxlights, horse hair, raw and boiled, merino and common wool, honey, potashes, rhubarb from China and Siberia, Russian soap, tobacco in leaves from the Ukraine and Podolia, salted beef and pork, flaxseed, hempseed, juniper berries, mats and a variety of other articles of minor importance.

A great proportion of these articles are brought by land, from different distances in the interior by waggons. The wheat from fifteen to eighteen hundred versts descend the Dnieper in batteaux. The iron, butter of Siberia, and the caviar come by water from Taganrok.

TRANSIT AND PORT OF DEPOSIT.

The Russian Government well understanding the advantages of the situation of Odessa for commercial purposes; by an ukase of 5th May, 1804, permitted the importation of all foreign merchandises in transit, subject to certain regulations. The increase of this trade in 1808, dictated the adoption of farther facilities, for its prosecution, ad interim—when the arrival of the imperial ukase of 26th October, 1808, removed at once all difficulties, making the *port* free of all duties and taxes whatsoever; not to take full effect, however, until 1820.

The goods in transit arriving at Odessa, perform a quarantine, after which, it is permitted the merchant to take them to his own warehouse, and to despatch them according to his pleasure, under the *surveillance* of the custom-house. Mer-

merchandise declared in transit is free of all and every duty—such goods as are not prohibited, may be sold for consumption, and those that are to be despatched into the interior, a simple declaration at the custom-house is to be made and the duty paid agreeably to the tariff. A merchant of Odessa, stating the advantages of the foreign trade and that of the transit of his port, writes—

“We have already had an evident proof of this; in 1810 the American ship *Calumet*, Capt. Holmes, under the direction of Mr. Charles Greene, supercargo, arrived at Odessa, from Boston, for the purpose of loading with Russian produce, and others would doubtless have arrived, the same year, had not the Turkish Government shut the passage of the Dardanelles to neutrals, on account of the war.”

TRANSPORTATION.

Land carriage is much resorted to and is found to be sure and not expensive—there are persons established in the city, who contract for these purposes and are responsible for the safety of property confided to them. From Odessa to Moscow the journey is from thirty-five to forty days, according to the season, and the price of transportation from one and a half to three rubles the poud, (forty pounds) payable a part in advance and the remainder when the Goods are delivered
Malaga, 16th March, 1818.

From the foregoing account of Odessa, and the trade which may be carried on by the United States, in the Black Sea, with that and other Russian ports in those waters, it is very evident that our commercial relations with the Russian Empire are very important and may be extended to mutual advantage. Nearly all the commercial publications, that fall in our way, are full and explicit, in favor of an extension and careful cultivation of our intercourse with Russia; and the arguments adduced by the most of them, are clear and conclusive, and are calculated to lead the merchants of this country to improve these advantages and to seek out new avenues and sources of trade, during the present general stagnation, when the world being at peace, each nation performs her own affairs in her own way, and each is in a situation to carry its own productions to the other, and take in return what it requires, in its own vessels. These remarks are so true and so well known, that it is useless to dwell upon the

subject, and the deductions to be drawn from them, are so striking and apparent, that they spontaneously offer themselves to every mind, without reflection. It is therefore unnecessary to devote any time to these considerations.

The trade of the United States of America, with Russia, being allowed to be productive of advantage and capable of extension, appearing to be generally acknowledged; if then, this extension can be obtained, and these advantages increased, by any mode honorable, and in itself also, comprising other advantages, to this country, it is presumable that such an object would receive the attention of the Government and the sanction of the community. From a perusal of the translation upon Odessa, and the trade of the Black Sea, it is very perceivable, that in order for this country to avail herself of the advantages held out to her, it is necessary she should form a commercial treaty with Turkey, as the Grand Signior, reserves to himself the power of preventing the entrance to the Euxine, by the passage of the Dardanelles, of all those flags not acknowledged by the Sublime Porte; and strange to relate, the American stars and stripes are the only Insignia of National *Greatness*, *unofficially* known to him—and remain so, even in this day of enterprise and in this enlightened age—this *he* the more wonders at, as he has observed, our emblems being similar to his, as nearly as stars can be to the crescent—he imagines our religion may in some degree, comport with his own. It is unnecessary to state, that the *only* cause of the non recognisance of our flag, is that the Government has not yet thought fit to send a Minister to the Porte.

It is remarkable the surprise expressed by the Greeks, who comprise the far greater part of the mercantile population of the Turkish Empire in Europe and in Asia, when they see an American in their country or elsewhere, that our Government have not sent an Embassy to Turkey. We meet, say they, your vessels in Trieste, Marseilles, Genoa, Leghorn, at Cadiz, in Lisbon and in England—and while Austria, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Great Britain have all their respective Ambassadors in Turkey; and you, having such great commercial relations with all these countries, have no resident minister at Constantinople—also your trade with Smyrna is very considerable, and we do not know as you have any acknowledged Consul there, your country-

men who visit that place, generally putting themselves under the protection of the English Consul. In addition you have Consuls at Algiers, in Tunis and at Tripoli, and as these Governments are all subservient in a greater or lesser degree to the Grand Signior, we much wonder, that you should not have a Minister at Constantinople. If in reply it should be advanced, that the Government of the United States of America, being purely republican and not caring to submit to the custom required by the Grand Signior, of making presents; previous to the reception of an Ambassador, they directly reply that the amount required would be small indeed, in comparison with the advantages, that an acknowledgment of the flag would give to our trade in these countries; and if the argument be carried still further and the *principle* objected to, the retort immediately is, that England, and *France* in a particular manner, through all the changes of her Government, whether Republican, Imperial; or Regal, has always seen fit to comply with this custom, and has reaped great advantages thereby. In addition, say they, from you, it would not be so rigidly adhered to, and would in fact only be expected in the first instance, and even then not considered as a right, but received merely as a compliment. It should be noticed, that these observations coming from these people, the Greeks, who having no country of their own, and being at the same time intelligent men, at least as regards commerce, are worthy of serious consideration; and must be allowed to have weight and impartiality on their side, proceeding as they do, from a source perfectly disinterested. In fact the very circumstance of our remaining as we are, is more to their advantage, as the change which they imagine ought for *our* interest to take place, would be to them an injury, as it would doubtless deprive them of a portion of a very advantageous carrying trade which they now enjoy, in bringing wheat, &c. from the Black Sea to the various Italian, French, and Spanish ports in the Mediterranean, to Gibraltar, Portugal &c. &c.

As the United States of America comprize such a vast extent of territory, and their productions are so various, and particularly as many of them are so similar to those of the Russian empire, it may be imagined; that this trade may not only, not prove beneficial, but even be disadvantageous, to the Southern and Western Sections of the Union; but a

moments reflection, it is presumed, will show this idea to be erroneous. All the wheat now grown, or that can be raised on the borders of the Euxine, and in the interior provinces, is and will be carried to the respective markets in Europe, when demanded, and if the carrying of that commodity should be participated, by the vessels of the United States, it cannot, while benefitting *some* of these states, in the remotest degree injure *any*. A consideration of great importance to this country generally, and in a particular manner to the south and west divisions, is the *transit trade*; which may be carried on through Odessa, it being a free port, from thence through Brody to Vienna, all Germany, and to France. This as a vent for our cottons, without taking into view any other production, in the event of a war between France and England, must strike every political and mercantile man, as an immense affair; when also it is taken into view, that in addition to the products of Russia, which may be received as returns, those of other nations can reach us in the same way. These remarks may be extended to any length; but it is deemed unnecessary; the intelligent planter, the experienced farmer, the calculating and enterprising merchant, the industrious manufacturer can and will, from viewing the subject, form his own estimate—each and all may be referred to many interesting and well written publications on these affairs, to Major Noah's travels, and for a full and complete account of these countries to "a Memoir on the commerce and navigation of the Black Sea, and the trade and maritime geography of Turkey and Egypt, in two volumes, illustrated with Charts, by Henry A. S. Dearborn," Collector of the port of Boston, who has with much labor, care and intelligence, compiled from various authors, a valuable work, to which are annexed accurate Charts of the Mediterranean, Archipelago, the sea of Marmora, the Euxine, and the sea of Asof. It is imagined from these remarks, added to the reflections, they will cause in the mind of the more judicious reader, enough has been said in a commercial view, to show the advantages, that may result from a mission to Turkey.

It now remains to point out those of a political kind, which are in the main, consequently deducible from the *commercial* benefits set forth. Therefore very little need be hazarded on this head. In a political point of view, a resident Minister at Constantinople, would certainly be of infi-

nite service in ascertaining and communicating to his Government the various objects and intrigues of the Divan, and in frequent instances might prevent collisions with the Barbary powers, or in cases of expected, or actual rupture, immediate intelligence, could be conveyed to the commanders of our ships of War in the Mediterranean.

In fact, while we have Consuls in Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli ; we have none at Smyrna, with which place there is great commercial intercourse, nor an Ambassador at the Porte, to which power, all these states are more or less subservient, at any rate nominally so.

Another consideration, while Russia, France, England, &c. have their subjects in Turkey protected by their respective Consuls, and their countries represented by resident Ministers—American citizens are obliged to put themselves under the protection of one of these Foreign Agents, or remain unprotected ; while in reality America herself is without representation. By this means England, Russia and France are in possession of advantages and information withheld from the United States, and solely because her Government has not made a commercial treaty with Turkey.

In reverting to the commercial advantages to be derived from a treaty with the Porte ; it is to be added, the Black Sea, once open to the free navigation of the American flag, the same productions and manufactured goods of Russia, which are now imported from the Baltic, may in *as short* a period, and at all seasons of the year, and *with more safety*, be procured at *Odessa* ; and American ships could furnish Russia with a great proportion of her Colonial supplies through this channel. Also a free intercourse with these countries, would afford employment to our carrying vessels, in conveying wheat and other grains from Odessa, Tagonrok, &c. to the French, Italian and peninsular ports ; from whence their voyages could be continued in a variety of directions.

Newport, R. I. 1st Nov. 1819.









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